Waltham Forest Safeguarding Partnership Arrangements - March 2026

This paper provides an overview of the safeguarding partnership arrangements in Waltham Forest, in line with statutory requirements for safeguarding adults and children.

1. The Safeguarding Partners

The Care Act 2014 specifies three core partners who are members of Safeguarding Adults Boards. Under the Children Act 2004 and Working Together 2023, these are also defined as the Lead Safeguarding Partners (LSP) and Delegated Safeguarding Partners (DSP). There is also a requirement for all education, early years and childcare settings to be appropriately included in the safeguarding arrangements.

	Lead Safeguarding Partner (LSP)	Delegated Safeguarding Partner (DSP)
Waltham Forest Council	Linzi Roberts-Egan, Chief Executive	Nicky Crouch, Director of Children's Services / Marc Gadsby, Director of Adults' Services
NHS North East London Integrated Care Board	Nnenna Osuji, Chief Executive	Rob Nicholls, Director of Nursing and Safeguarding / Korkor Ceasar, NEL Deputy Director of Safeguarding
Metropolitan Police	Matt Twist, Assistant Chief Constable	Rhona Hunt, Chief Superintendent, North East Basic Command Unit

2. How the Lead Safeguarding Partners discharge their duties in Waltham Forest to safeguard and promote the welfare of children

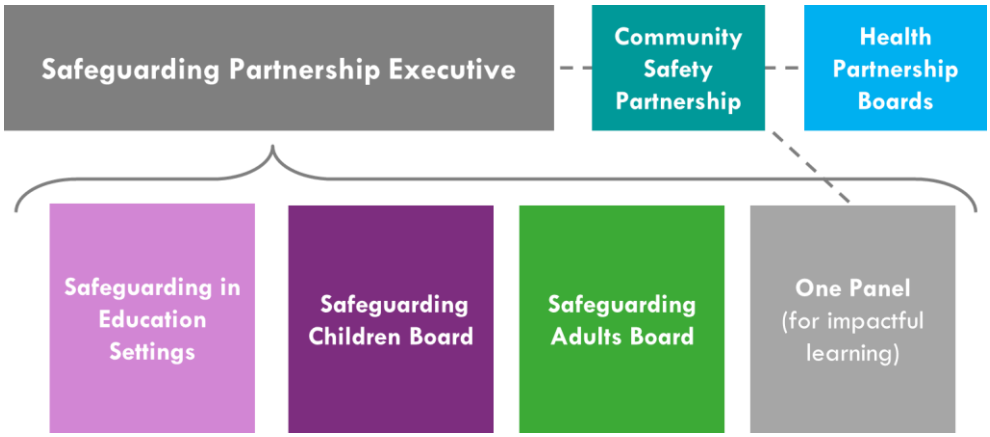
The LSP are accountable for the effectiveness and outcomes of local multi-agency safeguarding arrangements for safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children. Waltham Forest Safeguarding Partnership forms part of the wider geographical footprints covered by NHS North East London Integrated Care Boards (NEL ICB) and the Metropolitan Police respectively. The joint core functions of the LSP will therefore be discharged through the following mechanisms:

- A round table of the LSP (Council and NHS NEL ICB) convening with the Police DSP (and others as required) at least annually
- A dedicated meeting of the London Safeguarding Children Partnership comprising Police and all other LSPs, at least annually
- Escalation of emerging issues to the Police LSP as required

3. Safeguarding Partnership Governance

The DSP, operating through the Safeguarding Partnership Executive (SPE), hold the overall responsibility for Waltham Forest's multi-agency safeguarding arrangements.

The SPE is a well-established leadership forum where the three safeguarding partners share equal responsibility for overseeing and governing safeguarding arrangements for both adults and children. This strong, collaborative model unites the Safeguarding Partnership, encompassing both adults and children with local statutory Health Partnership Boards and the Community Safety Partnership (CSP), ensuring a coordinated and effective approach to safeguarding across the borough.



The Safeguarding Partnership Executive meets quarterly, and chairing is rotated annually among the safeguarding partners. Relevant agencies, as listed below, attend meetings as needed to support the partnership's work.

The respective Safeguarding Boards act as the strategic steering group, guiding the implementation and monitoring the progress of each strategic plan. When required and / or specific issues arise, dedicated working groups are formed to address them, ensuring accountability is maintained across all activities.

The Waltham Forest Safeguarding Partnership recognises the importance of the breadth of the education / early years / childcare sector being represented and commits to enabling this through a dedicated education safeguarding subgroup of the Partnership. 'Safeguarding in Education Settings' comprises representatives from across the different education settings' networks and forums. Two members of this subgroup join the DSP via the SPE to represent education. This enables the effective synthesis of education voices at a more strategic level of decision making within the Safeguarding Partnership, ensuring education settings remain central to safeguarding procedures and systems.

4. Relevant Agencies

The current partnership arrangements in Waltham Forest reflect the commitment and contribution of a wide partnership base and this is reflected in the naming of relevant agencies, who are central to enabling safeguarding arrangements to work effectively in the borough. This is done through collaboration and working together, as active participants whether through membership of the partnerships directly or via the range of working groups pertinent to specific areas of practice to improve outcomes for adults, children and families. Waltham Forest have in common with Newham their Police and ICB safeguarding partners and there is consensus that closer cross-border working is imperative.
The relevant agencies in Waltham Forest are:

- Community Health - North East London Foundation Trust (NELFT)
- Community Health - Tower Hamlets GP Care Group (providing 0-19 health services)
- Department for work and pensions
- Healthwatch Waltham Forest
- HM Prisons & Probation
- Hospital(s) - Barts Health NHS Trust (which includes Whipps Cross University Hospital)
- Housing (both council and registered social landlords)
- London Fire Brigade

- Newham Safeguarding Children's Partnership and Safeguarding Adults Board
- Voluntary sector organisations working with Waltham Forest residents
- Waltham Forest GP Federation
- Waltham Forest schools, colleges and other settings including early years and childcare, regardless of size or type

5. Funding

The Strategic Partnership Boards are financed by contributions from statutory partners and key relevant agencies. Partners also contribute time and resource to the Partnerships through chairing meetings, co-facilitating statutory reviews / learning events and any other specific pieces of work as required. Additional funds are requested from partners to finance statutory reviews as they arise. Funding arrangements will be reviewed annually.

6. Independent Chairing / Scrutiny

In Waltham Forest, the Safeguarding Partnership commissions an Independent Scrutineer, who undertakes both the chairing and / or scrutiny functions as defined in statutory guidance for Safeguarding Adults Boards and Local Safeguarding Children Partnerships.

The Independent Scrutineer provides impartial, robust, and effective support and challenge at both strategic and operational levels. Recognised as a critical friend, the Scrutineer facilitates opportunities for two-way dialogue and reflection between frontline practitioners and leaders, thereby promoting and enabling strong, clear strategic leadership within the partnership.

Throughout the year, the Independent Scrutineer reviews and comments on relevant areas of practice within the partnership, offering constructive challenge and holding partners to account collectively and individually as appropriate.

7. Identifying, responding to and monitoring the needs of children, families and adults in the area

The Waltham Forest Safeguarding Partnership's priorities and core business are subject to a comprehensive review every three years. This review includes a detailed needs assessment, designed to highlight areas where stronger partnership working and collaboration around safeguarding are required. There are established and effective links with both the community safety and health and wellbeing partnerships, ensuring that cross-cutting issues are addressed efficiently and that resources are utilised to their fullest potential.

Effectiveness in supporting children, families, and adults is closely tracked across all partnerships through regular oversight of action plan progress and performance dashboards. These measures help ensure the ongoing monitoring and improvement of the support provided.

The Safeguarding Partnership actively encourages the escalation of concerns for resolving professional disagreements as an integral part of safeguarding practice. All professionals have access to a clear and well-defined escalation process, supporting robust and responsive action when required.

8. Hearing the voices of residents

The perspectives and experiences of adults, children and families in Waltham Forest are integral to the work of the Safeguarding Partnership Boards and are gathered using a variety of approaches. Acknowledging that capturing these voices does not always involve direct communication, input may be obtained indirectly through professionals or via data analysis. Regardless of the method employed, the relevance and implications of all feedback is carefully considered in the context of the safeguarding theme being explored. The commitment to hearing residents' voices is reflected throughout our activities and strategic plans, and is realised through:

- Ongoing engagement initiatives, such as resident insight surveys
- Targeted consultation with specific resident groups and individuals
- Identifying themes from professionals, service providers or through quality assurance processes
- Receiving feedback from a range of resident networks and insight groups, including the Youth Independent Advisory Group, Citizen's Panel, and the Place Based Partnership Health Network

The annual reports will highlight the ways in which residents' voices have been heard and addressed and will summarise the impact of these contributions on our work.

9. Information sharing

The Waltham Forest Safeguarding Partnership has adopted the pan London safeguarding procedures for adults and children which both articulate the arrangements that clearly set out to the safeguarding partners the processes and principles for sharing information and data safely and effectively.

10. Annual Report

Annual reports will be completed each year to evidence progress and performance of each Safeguarding Partnership against its strategic plan.

11. Thresholds documents

Local guidance on thresholds for adults' and children's services respectively are currently undergoing a review as part of the broader programme of reform and change. While these documents have provided a clear framework for local understanding and supported professionals in identifying appropriate responses to the needs of individuals and families in Waltham Forest, it is recognised that they need to be refreshed to ensure continued relevance and effectiveness.

The updated guidance will continue to offer a transparent, accessible, and easily understood set of criteria for action, acknowledging the unique circumstances of each person or family and supporting professional judgement. The Safeguarding Partnership will monitor the impact of these revised documents to ensure they meet the needs of our community.

12. Business management arrangements for WFSCB

The Strategic Partnership Unit provides administrative and policy support to the safeguarding partnership. This includes support to the Independent Scrutineer, board members and the range of panels and working groups delivering against the Partnerships' strategic plans.

13. Statutory reviews

As part of Waltham Forest's integrated safeguarding arrangements, the 'One Panel' acts as a multi-agency group that reviews serious incidents and situations with the potential to provide important learning. The Panel examines circumstances that may require statutory review (i.e. Safeguarding Adult Reviews {SARs}, Domestic Abuse-Related Death Reviews {DARDRs}, and Local Child Safeguarding Practice Reviews {LCSPRs}, which also involve rapid reviews).

The Panel meets every month and applies a 'think family' approach, bringing together representatives from statutory partners and relevant agencies to identify learning and to oversee how this leads to demonstrable change. Special sessions are held for rapid reviews when needed.

Following its consideration of serious incidents and situations, the One Panel determines whether a statutory review is warranted. This recommendation, based on multi-agency discussion and assessment, is then submitted for endorsement by the Designated Safeguarding Partner (DSP) through the Safeguarding Partnership Executive (SPE), or, in the case of Domestic Abuse-Related Death Reviews (DARDRs), by the Community Safety Partnership (CSP) Chair.

The One Panel maintains a direct communication channel with the Child Death Review (CDR) Hub, further facilitating alignment and shared learning across agencies.

Statutory reviews are commissioned by the DSP in accordance with national guidance. Following completion, final reports are published on the Safeguarding Partnership Boards' websites, and action plans are agreed to embed any learning. The One Panel monitors progress to ensure that improvements are implemented effectively.

14. Review

These multi-agency safeguarding arrangements are reviewed annually and are subject to change as required.